Highlights

- This Situation Report complements the Timor-Leste Floods-Situation Reports with details on the situation and needs of children and their mothers, and on actions taken by UNICEF as part of the UN’s humanitarian response.
- Flooding and landslides have caused 41 fatalities and affected 33,177 households across Timor-Leste. Of those, 83% - or 27,622 households - are in Dili municipality. The Secretariat of State for Civil Protection estimates that there are still 3,012 temporarily displaced persons in 17 evacuation facilities across Dili.
- Amidst a surge in COVID-19 cases, the lockdown in Dili, that had been temporarily suspended to facilitate the humanitarian flood response, resumed on 30 April.
- UNICEF continued to support the mobile health clinic and the provision of clean water in Tasi Tolu, Dili municipality, as well as psychosocial and learning activities for children, and life-skills based education (LSBE) for adolescents, in evacuation centres. As families return home, preparations are underway for the transition to community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.

Situation in Numbers

- 400 + Under five children in evacuation centres in Dili
- 33,177 Total affected households across country
- 3,012 Internally displaced people (IDPs) in Dili
- 41 Fatalities¹

UNICEF’s Funding Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>Funding Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Food Items</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Inclusion</td>
<td>33%</td>
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UNICEF floods needs US$ 2.06 million

1 The official fatality figures have been reduced by the government since the first situation report.
Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF needs US$ 2,060,000 to sustain provision of life-saving and immediate essential services for women and children in Timor-Leste. UNICEF has been able to respond rapidly thanks to US$ 100,000 in pre-positioned supplies funded by Denmark and the United Kingdom, and by repurposing regular resources to meet the immediate response needs. The Government of New Zealand provided US$ 400,000 for the flood response and continued efforts to combat COVID-19, along with supplies and equipment for immediate response to the needs of women and children, especially related to water and sanitation. US$ 300,000 were received from the UNICEF Humanitarian Thematic Fund at global and regional level – a pooled, flexible multi-year fund supported by various donors that enables UNICEF to respond quickly to emergencies. However, more resources are urgently needed to respond to humanitarian needs in the different sectors and throughout the country.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Heavy rains across the country from 29 March to 4 April resulted in flash floods and landslides affecting all 13 municipalities to varying degrees, with the capital Dili and the surrounding low-lying areas the worst affected.

The latest official figures indicate a total of 17 evacuation facilities in Dili municipality, where 3,012 people – or 611 households – are temporarily sheltered. This is 913 people less compared to the last reporting period, as people are continuing to return home. There is thus a need for both sustained essential services in the evacuation sites, and for assistance to affected communities, including critical food and non-food items, and ensuring that essential services and support are available in these communities.

There is a critical need to ensure access to clean and safe water, including water treatment measures at community and/or household levels, improved sanitation and hygiene, as well as the provision of health services for the most vulnerable. The provision of nutrition services, including screening and referral for severe/critical cases of malnutrition, is also a priority. There is an immediate need to address the psychosocial and learning needs of affected children and adolescents and to provide learning materials to affected children and WASH rehabilitation in schools affected by the floods.

The floods took place in the context of rising COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste. On 28 April, the President renewed the State of Emergency for another 30 days, and the lockdown in Dili municipality that had been temporarily suspended after the floods was reinstated from 30 April. A sanitary fence is in place in 9 of the country’s 13 municipalities, including Dili, thus limiting the movement of people. As of 6 May, there were 1,315 active cases of COVID-19.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Non-Food Items

UNICEF provided immediate assistance thanks to pre-positioned relief supplies. With logistical support from the World Food Programme, UNICEF provided over 10,000 units of non-food items including 1,448 cleaning kits, 1,909 plastic mats, 1,956 blankets, 178 tarpaulins, 215 solar lanterns as well as a range of other critical supplies. The hygiene and cleaning materials, bedding, clothes and toys provided to evacuation sites, residential care institutions and affected communities has served more than 20,000 people. The focus on NFIs has now shifted toward supporting pregnant and lactating women and young children, with 140 mother and infant kits and 20 family hygiene kits distributed in the last week.
WASH
UNICEF handed over a floating raft, which was constructed to transport water to stranded communities across a flooded lake in Dili Municipality, to the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, and continued to support the distribution of clean water to the estimated 2,500 population. To help identify a sustainable water solution, UNICEF also assessed an existing borehole in that area. Moreover, UNICEF hired a local truck company to facilitate the distribution of clean water to 5 tanks serving over 1,700 affected people in 1 evacuation centre and 3 communities. Additionally, UNICEF is working with several INGOs to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) to improve water quality in affected communities and evacuation centres, with the planned distribution of water purification tablets.

Health
UNICEF continued to support the mobile health clinic in Tasi Tolu, Dili municipality, which was established right after the flash flood, by providing logistical assistance to the medical team. UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health (MoH), Dili Municipality Health Services, and the District Public Health Offices (DPHO) in other flood affected municipalities outside Dili to assess the situation and the response. The key priority remains to prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases, vector-borne diseases (in particular dengue), and skin diseases. UNICEF also supported coordination at the national and sub-national levels with MoH / DPHO, sister UN agencies and other key stakeholders.

Nutrition
The priority needs in the nutrition sector are to screen, refer, and treat cases of acute malnutrition, in collaboration with the health sector, and to strengthen preventative nutrition interventions. UNICEF, with the European Union, Fundasaun Alola and other partners, supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to respond. Forty-four mother support group (MSG) members supported the MoH to conduct weekly screening for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), referral and follow-up, and to promote counselling and promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. During the past week, an additional 149 children were screened in 22 evacuation centres. Of the total 557 children screened, 11 are receiving treatment for SAM. MSG members also provided counselling services to 629 mothers (67 pregnant women, 236 mothers of children 0-23 months and 326 mothers of children 24 – 59 months). Moreover, UNICEF distributed mother and infant kits donated by New Zealand to 80 mothers of infants 0-6 months. UNICEF also continued to support the MoH to monitor adherence to the statement on appropriate support for IYCF in the evacuation centres.

Child Protection
In partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI), Commission on the Rights of the Child, and 10 CSOs, the UNICEF-supported child-friendly spaces (CFS) have so far reached over 1,000 children in 13 evacuation sites, with parents reporting improvements in children’s sleep and attitude. Twelve CFS remain operational as one closed during the reporting period because families had returned home. UNICEF handed over the CFS’ recreational kits to the hosting church, with a plan to also provide psychosocial activity manuals for community members to continue the activities for children. Preparations for the closure of other CFS and their transition to community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) are underway, including training and mentoring volunteers identified from the communities, procurement of goods, mapping of specialized services, and identifying referral pathways. UNICEF also continued its support the Ministry of Health’s national hotline for MHPSS, including training for operators conducted online to comply with the resumed lockdown. Delivery of non-food items (NFI) also continued, including hygiene kits, portable lamps, and mother and infant kits to affected households, in collaboration with MSSI and the Commission on the Rights of the Child. In addition, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MSSI national child protection officers (CPOs) for case management of vulnerable women and children.
Education
UNICEF and partners continued providing structured learning activities to children in eight evacuation centres, despite difficulties due to the resumed lockdown. UNICEF also convened a virtual meeting of sector partners on 4 May to discuss challenges and next steps, and it was agreed that three more centres would be supported to ensure the psychosocial and learning needs of affected children are addressed. An additional 15 volunteers have been identified. In the education sector, it is also necessary to provide learning materials and WASH improvements to schools affected by the flooding (schools are currently closed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic), and in the longer term, to reconstruct and renovate affected schools.

Social Protection and Inclusion
UNICEF provided 30 cleaning kits to support families in Aileu municipality through the Youth Action Posku, set up by the Secretariat of State of Youth and Sports, the Alumni Association of Youth Parliament (APFTL) and other youth organizations. Moreover, the life-skills based education (LSBE) sessions continued, reaching over 200 adolescents in 10 evacuation facilities. These European Union-supported sessions are carried out by trained facilitators from APFTL and some current adolescent members of the National Youth Parliament. The facilitators received further guidance from UNICEF, in the form of a short written guide, to help them address issues of violence and reinforce gender equality.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy
On 8 April, the Government declared a state of calamity in Dili for a period of 30 days and requested international assistance. The operational coordination of the flood response is led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, which holds daily operational coordination meetings. Humanitarian coordination is organized by sectors led by line ministries with UN agencies as co-leads. UNICEF co-leads the WASH, nutrition and education sectors and the child protection sub-group within the gender and protection sector. It also plays an active role in the health sector. As such, UNICEF staff are playing a key role in various needs assessments currently underway, as well as in ensuring information sharing, coordination and advocacy.

Human Interest Stories and External Media
UNICEF’s response to the flood emergency:
https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2887099654881264
Floating raft hand over:
https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2885986784992551
Learning activities in evacuation centres continued:
https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2885155375075692

Next SitRep: 20 May 2021

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